

SHARED BERINGIAN HERITAGE PROGRAM



The Shared Beringian Heritage Program at the National Park Service is an international program that recognizes and celebrates the natural resources and cultural heritage shared by the United States and Russia on both sides of the Bering Strait. The program seeks local, national, and international participation in the preservation and understanding of natural resources and protected lands, and works to sustain and protect the cultural traditions and subsistence lifestyle of the Native peoples of the Beringia region.

National Park Service
Department of the Interior





Following a historic summit in 1990, Presidents George H.W. Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev proposed the idea of an international protected area that would span the Bering Strait and include federal lands on both sides. As a result of this vision, the Shared Beringian Heritage Program was established by Congress in 1991 to reconnect the people of Alaska and Chukotka and to recognize the international significance of the area known as “Beringia.”

The program’s goals are to:

- Foster a climate of mutual understanding and cooperation among the United States, Russia, and the indigenous people of Beringia in environmental protection, historic preservation, and interpretation.
- Support subsistence opportunities within Beringia and recognize the unique and traditional activities by indigenous people of the region.
- Promote the study, interpretation, and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of international significance.
- Support cultural exchange between the indigenous people on both sides of the Bering Strait.

In pursuit of these goals, the Shared Beringian Heritage Program engages with communities in the Beringia region and beyond and encourages participation in the program’s primary activities. Through funding cooperative projects, the program enables people, organizations, institutions, universities, regional governments, students and scientists to create and implement activities linking Alaska and Chukotka. Current and past projects have focused on shared cultural traditions, bilateral scientific research, traditional ecological knowledge, climate change, and youth exchanges across the Bering Strait.

In addition to supporting cooperative projects, the Shared Beringian Heritage Program collaborates with the regional administration in Chukotka to hold the bi-annual “Beringia Days” international conference. The conference brings together Native peoples, Russian and American scholars, researchers, environmentalists, and representatives of government and non-government organizations to share knowledge and celebrate the deep and sustained connections between Alaska and Chukotka.

Please visit our website, Facebook page, or contact us for more information:

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